

After the challenges of isolation and the pandemic, this year's Mardi Gras is a chance for us to reunite, reconnect, and celebrate what truly makes New Orleans, New Orleans—the love, the peace, the culture, and the energy of its people.

While I am in D.C. for House business and for the President's State of the Union address, my heart is at home as the Zulu float turns on Jackson Avenue and the oceans of people scream and yell: Throw me something, mister. Our hearts are full of joy.

My heart is handing out coconuts at the Zulu parade as we speak, although I am physically in Washington, D.C.

People attending balls, costuming, and letting everyone be themselves is what Mardi Gras is all about. It is a time of love, a time of expression, and a time of cultural explosion.

Happy Mardi Gras to one, happy Mardi Gras to all, have a safe and happy Mardi Gras. Enjoy the beautiful weather.

For all of you watching, I invite you all to come to Louisiana, have a slice, have a piece of Mardi Gras. No matter where you are or where you are from, let's show each other some love this season.

And as we say in Louisiana: *Laissez les bon temps rouler*.

#### AMERICA'S ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight one of the most forceful and significant pieces of leverage on the world stage that President Biden surrendered on his first day in office: America's energy independence.

Later today the President will brazenly attempt to rewrite history by hailing his so-called leadership amidst the horrific and heartbreaking war unfolding in Ukraine while ignoring the self-inflicted crises he has imposed on the American people. Yet no amount of spin, lies, or deflection can hide the damage that Biden has done to our great country—particularly through his failed, destructive, and reckless energy policies.

On day one he killed the Keystone XL pipeline destroying 11,000 American jobs and delivering a crushing blow to domestic energy production. Shortly after, President Biden infamously green-lit the Nord Stream 2 pipeline—handing Vladimir Putin a victory long before his Russian troops ever stepped foot into Ukraine.

Throughout the first year of Biden's Presidency, the current administration embarrassingly begged OPEC to produce more oil while stalling and even halting oil and gas permits here in the United States.

To further weaken our position on the world stage, President Biden withdrew U.S. support for beneficial energy projects around the world, increasing

our dependence, as well as our allies' dependence, on foreign adversaries. President Biden removed U.S. support from the Eastern Mediterranean gas pipeline that would have connected Israel's offshore gas reserves to Europe.

In spite of lauding this project as a new opportunity and a geopolitical win-win back in 2014 when Biden was Vice President, now President Biden claims his priorities lie with moving away from fossil fuels in order to promote green energy and renewables. Some may believe President Biden simply had a change of heart, but this would be naive. Instead, he has dangerously appeased the far-left flank of his party by fully embracing Green New Deal garbage.

Enough is enough, Madam Speaker. It is abundantly clear that energy independence is national security. And through every solitary energy policy, the Biden administration has chipped away at our ability to independently fuel our Nation, thereby damaging our national security.

Due to President Trump's powerful efforts, the United States was recently energy independent just a year ago. Yet thanks to President Biden's utopian Green New Deal fantasies, we have lost our energy independence. So rather than strengthening domestic production by having every energy industry firing on all cylinders, we are left purchasing oil and gas from other countries, like Russia. Yes, Russia.

In fact, the United States buys over 635,000 barrels of oil every day at over \$103 per barrel. That is over \$65 million every solitary day that we are sending to Russia filling Putin's war coffers in the process. I stand with patriots boycotting Russian vodka, pouring it out all over the streets, supporting the Ukrainian people.

But why on Earth are we not boycotting Russian energy to put America first and really hit Russia where it hurts: in the pocketbook?

Mr. President, we must immediately cease purchasing Russian oil and fully unleash domestic energy production.

Ahead of his State of the Union Address tonight, I urge President Biden to rescind existing regulations and reverse harmful executive orders that undermine our energy independence. Restore oil and gas production by swiftly authorizing vital leases and permits, and abandoned radical climate rules and policies that obstruct our ability to have domestic energy production roaring at full throttle.

Unfortunately, based on the President's most recent record, I fully expect him to double down on his disastrous energy agenda. Just this weekend, Press Secretary Jen Psaki comically claimed that we need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, on oil in general, and we need to look at other ways of having energy in our country and others.

As a military veteran, I can assure the White House that renewable resources are meaningless in fueling

military equipment on the battlefield and winning a war.

To no one's surprise, recent reports claim President Biden will tout his energy policies tonight and request this body to deliver legislation to achieve so-called clean energy that promotes climate action. What a disappointment.

There is still time for the President to cease this capitulation to the far left, stop putting \$65 million every day into Vladimir Putin's war chest, and put Americans first by fully empowering and unleashing domestic energy production.

#### CELEBRATING THE ATHLETES FROM BEARDEN HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, on February 6, Bearden High School's dance team brought home another national championship from the Universal Dance Association's National Dance Team championship. The team earned its third national championship in the large varsity Game Day Division, the sixth in team history.

Routines in the Game Day Division are focused on school spirit and crowd engagement. Teamwork is crucial in these choreographed competitions, and athletes must be on the same page if they want to win. Bearden's dance team won this competition by working together and perfecting a motivating, effective routine during Bearden Bulldog athletic competitions.

Members of this national championship winning team are Abigail Abrams, Olivia Roddy, Jordan James, Ella Klenck, Julie Horn, Maddie Taylor, Cadance Eastman, Kenzie Bankes, Mallory Simpson, Ruby Fisher, Leah Cho, Ella McLaughlin, Marian Mitchell, Mallory Haskins, Eli Keziah, Lana Nelson, Avery Duncanson, and Reagan Honeycutt.

The team's leadership includes head coach Hannah Keathley, assistant coaches Natalie Adkins and Sydney Schriver, technical coach Kathryn Brasfield, choreographer Katie Fear Lane, and team sponsor and high school teacher Rebecca Nutter.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to celebrate this group of athletes from Bearden High School, my alma mater. Our community is proud of your continued success on the national stage.

And go Bulldogs.

Recognizing Tennessee Volunteers Legend Gus Manning

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize somebody who really needs no recognition at all but is somebody who is very dear to me. He is a good friend of mine. He is a Tennessee Volunteer legend, Gus Manning. He is turning 99 this July, and I wanted to take a few moments to recognize Gus' life and distinguished career here on the House floor.

Gus is a lifelong Knoxville. He graduated from Rule High School, the Fighting Golden Bears, and then served in the United States Marine Corps during World War II. After he completed serving his country in the Marine Corps he decided to become a Tennessee Volunteer, and that journey began.

A tremendously athletic individual, Gus walked onto UT's football team in 1947 and played baseball for the Volunteers. He graduated from Tennessee in 1950 but returned to UT in 1951 when the athletic director, General Robert Neyland, hired him to be the sports information director for Volunteer athletics. This was the beginning of Gus' nearly half-century long professional career with UT's athletic department.

Outside of the athletic department, Gus co-hosted Vol Sports Report on WIVK. He also served as president of the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, the Southeastern Conference Sports Information Directors, and the Southeastern Conference Business Managers.

From 1951 to 2003, Gus attended 608 consecutive Tennessee Volunteers football games. His dedication to the University of Tennessee's athletic program earned him inductions into halls of fame and awards from various organizations. His greatest recognition came in 2015, when Gate 16 at Neyland Stadium was renamed Gus Manning Gate. It is fitting that an individual who dedicated so much of his life to the football teams that play in that stadium is now a part of it forever.

I thank Gus for continuing to be such a great representative of the University of Tennessee and its athletic programs.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 43 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

In You, O Lord, may all seek refuge. Incline Your ear to those who desperately cry to You as they flee the devastation surrounding them and rescue them speedily from their distress.

Be the rock of refuge for all who seek shelter. Be a strong fortress behind which they may find safety and security.

Loving God, would that we trust in You and not in worthless idols of power

and control. Turn not Your face from us.

You have seen the affliction of the people who call on Your name; heed now and save them from unimagined adversity.

Be gracious, O Lord, to those who are anguished, whose eyes are swollen with the grief of lives lost; whose souls are broken in fear of the terror threatening their loved ones left behind.

Give us the courage to hold fast to You, our God. Embrace these times in Your mercy; deliver the innocent from the hands of their enemies. Save the blameless from their persecutors.

Let Your face shine upon those who need, this day, the light of Your countenance. Save them by the strength of Your steadfast love.

We offer this prayer for our world this day, in Your most holy name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VALADAO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lifted many mask wearing mandates due to the positive trends in the fight against COVID-19. Effective today, Canada's Ontario Ministry of Health is removing capacity limits and vaccination requirements for all settings.

Increased vaccination rates in the United States, Canada, and around the world show that communities who have done the right thing and followed the science can return to a watchful sense of normalcy.

Today, I am calling on the United States and Canadian Governments to follow the science-based directives of their health agencies and to fully reopen the Canadian border to travelers without COVID restrictions.

Two years ago, the border between the United States and Canada closed with devastating consequences for both countries, economically and emotionally. Incredible progress has been made in the fight against COVID. It is time to move the remaining disjointed and prohibitive restrictions at the U.S. and Canadian borders.

#### SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

(Mr. LATURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the brave men and women across Ukraine fighting for their freedom and standing strong against Vladimir Putin and his gang of thugs. As our adversaries look on, it is time our Nation's leaders step up on the world stage and restore peace through American strength and power.

Make no mistake. This unprovoked invasion of Ukraine is an attack on democracy, and Russia must be held accountable for their actions. The United States must immediately impose additional crippling economic sanctions against Putin and provide further military and humanitarian aid to the Ukraine fighting forces.

Most importantly, it is vital that we end our Nation's reliance on Russia's energy industry by unleashing domestic energy production right here in the United States. Energy security is national security.

I continue to be inspired by the countless acts of bravery and leadership by President Zelensky and his people as they fight for their freedom and independence. May God give strength and comfort to the people of Ukraine.

#### HONORING DR. PAUL FARMER

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brilliant doctor and a pioneer of global health, Dr. Paul Farmer, who sadly passed away last week.

Dr. Farmer dedicated his entire life to improving the lives of others.

As co-founder of Partners in Health alongside Dr. Jim Yong Kim and Ophelia Dahl, he forever altered our understanding of the fight against global poverty and how to care for those in need.

In his mission, "To Repair the World," that is his book, he brought his unique and innovative brand of compassionate care to fight HIV in Haiti, tuberculosis in Peru, Ebola in Sierra Leone, to name just a few, while helping transform public health outcomes in Rwanda.

At the Harvard Medical School, he inspired a generation of aspiring doctors to pursue careers in global health.

Personally, it was a privilege to see his saintly work firsthand on our congressional delegation visit to Haiti in